

LITERARY NOTES.

Altruism. Mr. Howells' ideal land, is already known to his readers, but it is probable that he will give much more information concerning it in the forthcoming series of papers, to be printed in "The Cosmopolitan," a "Traveler" in fiction to be his general title; and it is to get more leisure for writing these papers that Mr. Howells has relinquished the greater portion of his editorial work on the magazine.

The Rev. Arthur H. Nichols, widower of Charlotte Nichols, married again some time after his first wife's death. He now lives in King's County, Ireland, and sometimes preaches. He never talks of his early romance.

Mr. Francis Parkman has prepared a new introductory chapter for the new edition of his fascinating book, "The Oregon Trail." It is forty-five years since he took the journey over the Rockies chronicled therein, and in this chapter he discusses the wonderful changes which have taken place in the region during that period. The volume has seventy-seven original illustrations by Frederic Remington, known for his remarkable sketches of Indian life and character.

Chapman's "Home" is to fill a volume to be included in the Knickerbocker Nugget series. Three volumes of "German Folk Songs" will also be added to the series.

Two novelists are at work upon plays—Mr. Henry James and Mr. Conan Doyle. Mr. Doyle's is a one-act play and it is to be brought out by Mr. Irving.

Mr. Charles Francis Adams's book, "Three Episodes of Massachusetts History," has had a success in advance of publication. The anticipatory demand has been so great that its publication has been postponed to October 8, the delay insuring the preparation of another edition.

Mr. Edmund Gosse, allured, perhaps, by his recent studies in fiction, has been making a first original essay in that line. He has written a novel, or rather a novelette, entitled "The Secret of Narcissus," which will be published next month.

The volume which Messrs. F. B. Sanborn and W. T. Harris have prepared concerning the life and philosophy of A. Bronson Alcott is now in the press of Roberts Brothers.

Mr. Thomas Hardy's new novel, "The Pursuit of the Will," is to be published as a serial in "The Harper's Bazar." The first chapters will appear this week.

As much as \$600 has been paid for a perfect "first edition" of Burns's "Poems," and this leads a correspondent of "Notes and Queries" to assert that among the humble collections of the Scottish peasantry copies might still be found, although very few and far between. "I know of one old man," he adds, "who in his youth was a shepherd, and who wandered the hillsides devouring the contents of a much-thumbed copy. But if he hunter do not come across a Kilmarnock, less valuable still, I have done very well, for this, less than Burns, he may find, and he will prize it as a treasure. I know of one border cottage in which Ritpath's "Border History" and sundry other scarce works of his kind repose side by side with the "Sain's Everlasting Rest" of Mr. Baxter. In a little border village there stands an inn, the landlord of which has a wonderful collection of books. He knows scarcely anything of them, but he has an idea that they are valuable, and there he has a stand, three rows deep, of his "Border History," a beautiful set of the "Waverley Novels," "Hudibras," with Hogarth's plates, and other works of greater or lesser value whose names I forget, with an autograph letter of Sir Walter Scott, old volumes, etc. In a village near Abbotford there lives, or did live two years ago, an old woman who in her youth had been a servant in the border cottage. In the corner of her "ben-ed" she had a large pile of old books, which, unfortunately, I did not get examined, and had she written a "when you get your hands on that" there were I would give her regarding them, and she had read 'at the 'Pilgrim's Progress' and the 'Holy War.'"

Dr. Gordon's book, "An American Missionary in Japan," is coming from the press of Houghton, Mifflin & Co. It is a record of twenty years' experience.

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